

Press Release



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Celebrate North Dakota's Farm Heritage at Sodbuster Days September 9-10

North Dakota's farming heritage will be celebrated at the 23rd annual Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days September 9-10. Held at Fort Ransom State Park in southeastern North Dakota, Sodbuster Days showcases the state's homesteading and ethnic heritage with horse-drawn field work, pioneer homemaking skills, music, stick-to-the-ribs foods and much more.

A weekend highlight will be a ribbon cutting and dedication for the park's new Music Building, set for 3 p.m. Saturday. The 32 ft. by 56 ft. building was funded by donations and constructed by Fort Ransom Sodbusters Association members. Musicians will be playing inside the building throughout the weekend, with a jam session and dancing from 8-10 p.m. Saturday night.

Sodbuster Days is sponsored by the volunteer Fort Ransom Sodbusters Association, with demonstrations from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. Additional activities include a Saturday night chicken dinner, followed by Mass and jam session; and on Sunday, farm breakfast, church services and a parade.

Twenty-plus teams of draft horses will be used for field work or hitched to "people movers" for wagon rides. Hay stacking using a horse-powered "Jayhawk" hay stacker will be demonstrated throughout the weekend. This unique antique apparatus was acquired and restored by association members.

Cost to attend Sodbuster Days is \$5/person per day, with children 12 and under admitted free. The regular state park entrance fee will be waived. For those wishing to spend the weekend, the park offers camping with electrical hookups, showers, plenty of picnicking areas and canoe and kayak rentals. The park is located along the Sheyenne River Valley National Scenic Byway, 35 miles south of Valley City, 18 miles northwest of Lisbon or two miles north of the town of Fort Ransom. For more information, call (701) 973-4331.

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Play in our backyard!

Fort Ransom Sodbuster Days—September 9-10, 2006
Schedule of Activities

Both Days

Saturday, September 9—10 a.m.-5 p.m. & Sunday, September 10, 10 a.m.—4 p.m.)

Harnessing the horses (<i>Barn, 10 a.m.</i>)	Pioneer crafts, homemaking skills & food samples
Kids' activities (<i>10 a.m.-4 p.m.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Corn muffins (<i>Cook Car</i>)
Wheelwright (<i>Noon</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doughnuts (<i>Summer Kitchen</i>)
Horse-powered threshing (<i>1 p.m.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sauerkraut (<i>Log Cabin</i>)
Horse-powered haying (<i>2 p.m.</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lefse & rommegrot
Horse-powered fieldwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ice cream making
Farrier	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Butter churning
Stationary engines display and demonstrations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open fire cooking
Pedal-powered woodworking	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tatting & spinning (<i>Sunne House</i>)
Blacksmith shop	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Wheel-thrown pottery (<i>Log Cabin</i>)
Valentine elevator	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Farm & church displays
Woodcarving	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flintknapping & looming
Live music (<i>Music Building</i>)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Treadle sewing, rug weaving, quilting,
Chair Caning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brazilian embroidery & more.

Saturday, September 9

All day	Fiddler's Jamboree (<i>Antique Machinery Display Building</i>)
3 p.m.	New Music Building Dedication and Ribbon Cutting
5 p.m.	Pie Auction
7 p.m.	Mass (<i>Music Building, Father Jarold Finnestad</i>)
6 p.m.	Baked chicken with all the trimmings (<i>Adults \$7.50, ages 6-12 \$3.50, 6 & under free</i>)
8-10 p.m.	Music Jam Session (<i>Music Building</i>)

Sunday, September 10

7-9:30 a.m.	Breakfast
9 a.m.	Interdenominational Church Service (<i>Music Building, Pastor Dave Carlson</i>)
10:30 a.m.	Parade
2 p.m.	Auction (<i>handmade quilts, dish towels, table runners and more</i>)